

# Faculty Information System

## COMPANY BACKGROUND

ESX is a privately held, fully integrated, software company located in Houston, TX. ESX has been developing innovative software solutions since 1999. During that time ESX has received a host of honors, having been named twice as a Fast Tech 50 company, and as one of the city's Top 25 software companies by the Houston Business Journal. ESX has also been honored as part of the prestigious Houston 100, which recognizes Houston's fastest growing private companies.

## ESX PRODUCTS AND MARKETS

Over the last ten years ESX has executed dozens of development and implementation projects to provide clients with sophisticated, data-driven web sites to meet their business needs. Each of these projects is based on the company's proprietary code-base called xCatalyst. With each project, ESX leverages the existing features and framework of xCatalyst, and as necessary, adds new features and functions that further extend its capabilities. The platform is available under an ESX hosted, Application Service Provider (ASP) model, as well as a client-installed software solution.

xCatalyst provides clients with an integrated software platform that enables them to obtain superior business results through their web presence utilizing their existing employees and resources. xCatalyst transforms our client's web presence into a vital strategic business, marketing and communication tool.

xCatalyst provides a wide variety of sophisticated functionality including:

- Web content management system
- Community building applications
- E-commerce and transaction processing
- Marketing and communication tools
- CRM and membership management
- Event and conference management
- Continuing education catalog
- Faculty Information System (FIS)

Over the last five years, ESX has focused the marketing of the xCatalyst software platform to associations (Association Catalyst), nonprofits (Website Catalyst) and education (Education Catalyst) clients nationally. These markets are seen as large, underserved, and looking to solve key business problems addressed by the corresponding xCatalyst product.

## Faculty Information System (FIS)

The Education Catalyst includes a Faculty Information System (FIS) module that we recognize as a significant stand-alone product. The FIS enables education clients to solve the complex and burdensome administrative problems associated with management of faculty information. In doing so, the system provides a web-based data repository that enables faculty and their designees to maintain their curriculum vitae information in one place for multiple purposes.

The FIS was initially developed for Rice University's Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management in 2003. In 2005, ESX was selected by The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) to install and customize the FIS to replace their then existing paper-based system that consisted of over 1,200 MS Word documents. In the fall of 2007, the FIS was adopted institution wide at MDACC and houses the institutional CV of record for all faculty members.

## **Problems Solved by FIS Implementation**

The FIS automates manual, burdensome processes associated with the collection and dissemination of faculty data. The FIS provides a system for:

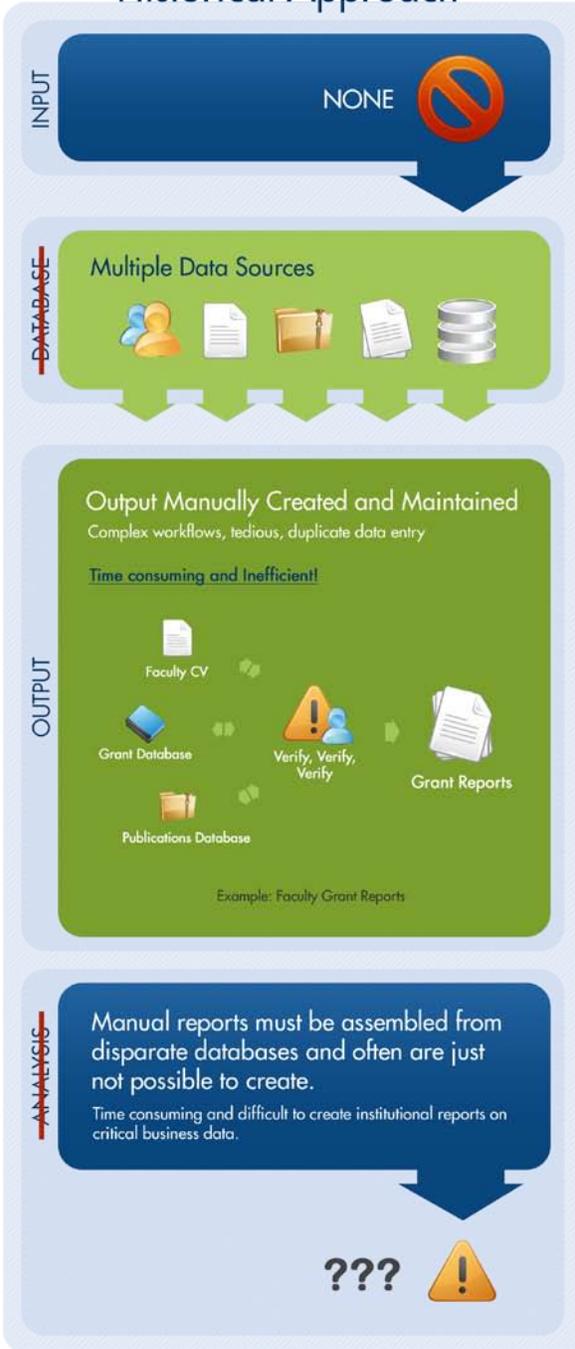
- **Merging disparate databases** for central and institutional reporting across divisions and departments (grants, publications, awards and honors, committee memberships)
- **An easy to use web-based application** for faculty members to produce critical documentation (comprehensive CV, institutional CV for promotion and tenure, documents in support of grant submissions)
- **Repurpose faculty information for multiple outputs.** Exchanges faculty information with other systems (internal faculty directories, internal and external faculty web pages, specialized directories by expertise, publications listings)
- **Processing and recording of faculty personnel actions (e.g., hiring, promotion, and award of tenure) and their approvals**
- **Supporting compliance with accreditation (SACS), grant reporting, CCTS, Report Card and general accountability**
- **Promoting faculty research collaboration (internal and external).**

## **The current system features:**

- Web-based interface for faculty to update their biographical and academic information
- **Automated** publication to public and private faculty web pages
- Templates for multiple document outputs (Institutional CV, Comprehensive CV and NIH Biosketch)
- Easily create new templates for additional reports as needed
- Multiple levels of access control for security of information
- Automated publication downloads from PubMed database to eliminate manual data entry
- Tools allowing faculty to control which data is published to CVs, Biosketch and faculty web page
- Real-time reporting capabilities for grants and publications
- Web-based key term and multiple-criteria search capabilities for faculty members and research interests
- Ad Hoc reporting tool to generate custom reports

In addition, the database can be mined by third party products such as SAP BusinessObjects – Crystal Reports to create institution-wide reports.

## Historical Approach



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